

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET REACTION TO ADMINISTRATION POLICY STATEMENTS

1. DURING JANUARY 6 CALL BY PRESS ATTACHE AND AIO ON YURIY EMMANUELOVICH KORNILOV, FOREIGN INFORMATION CHIEF OF SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS, LATTER OPENED CONVERSATION BY EXPRESSING CONCERN AT WHAT HE TERMED ATTEMPTS BY OUTGOING ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TO HAVE "NEGATIVE INFLUENCE" ON ATTITUDES TOWARD USSR OF INCOMING CARTER ADMINISTRATION. KORNILOV SAID THAT IF "VICTOR ZORZA OR THE NEW YORK TIMES" TURN OUT STATEMENTS "DESIGNED TO REACTIVATE THE ARMS RACE", THE SOVIETS CAN ACCEPT THAT AS NORMAL, IF UNDESIRABLE, JOURNALISTIC PRACTICE. BUT IF "RUMSFIELD AND BUSH" ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SIMILAR EXPRESSIONS "WE HAVE TO TAKE SERIOUS VIEW OF THAT "AS REFLECTING OFFICIAL POLICY.

2. KORNILOV THEN DIRECTOED EMBOFFS ATTENTION TO JANUARY 6 PIECE WRITTEN FOR TASS BY SOVIET POLITICAL COMMENTATOR VALENTIN ZORIN, IMPLYING THIS IS SEMI-OFFICIAL SOVIET RESPONSE. " WE HAVE TO ANSWER SUCH CHARGES," KORNILOV SAID.

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3. COMMENT: EMBOFFS HAVE ALSO HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT SOVIETS ATTACH PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO ZORIN ARTICLE. KORNILOV'S REMARKS PROVIDE FIRST-HAND CONFIRMATION THAT NEW MINOR THEME IN SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF U.S. OVER PAST WEEK -- LUMPING OUTGOING ADMINISTRATION WITH "MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX" AMONG THOSE "PUTTING PRESSURE" ON INCOMING ADMINISTRATION -- IS CENTRALLY DIRECTED.

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Message Attributes

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